

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DHA-05 IO-13 /077 W
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R 131540Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7127
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL FLORENCE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT, UR
SUBJ: SAKHAROV INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE ON DISSENT
IN EASTERN EUROPE

1. OTTAVIANO COLZI, SOCIALIST DEPUTY MAYOR OF FLORENCE,
REVEALED IN A SEPTEMBER 10 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HE HAD MET
WITH SOVIET DISSIDENT ANDREY SAKHAROV FOR THREE HOURS IN
MOSCOW ON AUGUST 16. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING, AS COLZI
DESCRIBED IT, WAS TO INVITE SAKHAROV TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE
ON DISSENT IN EASTERN EUROPE SPONSORED BY THE FLORENCE CITY
GOVERNMENT AND SCHEDULED FOR EARLY IN 1978. THE CONFERENCE
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ON DISSENT WILL FOLLOW ONE THAT THE FLORENCE CITY GOVERNMENT
WILL HOLD ON CHILE LATER THIS YEAR.

2. DURING HIS MOSCOW MEETING, COLZI REQUESTED
SAKHAROV TO PROVIDE HIM WITH A LIST OF OTHER SOVIET
DISSIDENTS WHO MIGHT PROFITABLY BE INVITED TO PARTICI-
PATE IN THE CONFERENCE. SAKHAROV REPORTEDLY PROVIDED

THE FOLLOWING NAMES (PHONETIC): GENERAL GRIGORENCO, VALENTIN TURCIN, TATIANA KHODOROVICH, FATHER GLEB YAKUNIN (ALL OF WHOM ARE FREE), SERGEI KOVALIOV, YURIY ORLOV, ALEKSANDR GINSBURG, PETRO RUDENKO, V. GAMSACHURIYA, MIRAD KOSTAVA, AND OLEKSA TURGHIY (ALL OF WHOM ARE CURRENTLY UNDER ARREST). APPARENTLY THE FLORENCE CITY GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO INVITE THE ABOVE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, I.E. THE SOVIET EMBASSY AT ROME.

3. MEANWHILE, ELENA SAKHAROV ARRIVED IN FLORENCE ON SEPTEMBER 9 AND WAS RECEIVED AT CITY HALL ON SEPTEMBER 12 BY COMMUNIST MAYOR GABBUGGIANI. THIS MOVE REPRESENTS AN ABOUT-FACE BY GABBUGGIANI WHO WAS UNABLE TO FIT A MEETING WITH MRS. SAKHAROV INTO HIS SCHEDULE DURING HER PREVIOUS VISIT TO FLORENCE. GABBUGGIANI'S ACTIONS ON THAT OCCASION LED TO SOME SHARP DEBATE IN THE FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL, AND THE MAYOR DID SEND HER A BOUQUET OF ROSES PRIOR TO HER DEPARTURE FROM FLORENCE TO STOCKHOLM TO RECEIVE THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE ON BEHALF OF HER HUSBAND.

4. COMMENT. THE CONFERENCE ON DISSENT POSES SOMETHING OF A DILEMMA FOR THE FLORENCE (AND NATIONAL) COMMUNISTS. IT IS INTERESTING THAT IT WAS COLZI AND NOT GABBUGGIANI WHO WAS CHOSEN TO MEET WITH SAKHAROV AND TO TALK ABOUT THE DISSENT CONFERENCE WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAS VOTED UPON BY THE CITY COUNCIL LAST JAN. 20. (GABBUGGIANI WAS IN THE SOVIET UNION SUBSEQUENT TO THAT DATE AND COULD HAVE CARRIED OUT THIS TASK.) HOWEVER, NOW THAT EVENTS HAVE GONE THIS FAR, THERE IS PROBABLY NO TURNING BACK, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE PCI'S SOCIALIST ALLIES ON THE CITY COUNCIL ARE SURE TO REMAIN IN THE FOREFRONT OF THOSE ORGANIZING THE CONFERENCE SINCE THEY SEE CERTAIN POLITICAL ADVANTAGES IN IT FOR THEM. IN ANY EVENT, THE REAL CRUNCH WILL CONCEIVABLY OCCUR IN CONNECTION WITH THE ATTEMPT OF THE ORGANIZERS TO BRING SAKHAROV AND OTHER DISSIDENTS, SOME OF WHOM ARE IN PRISON, TO FLORENCE FOR THE CONFERENCE. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: DISSIDENT FACTIONS, PLANNING MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME14847
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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